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EXCALIBUR



All citizens of Earth
are cordially invited to
attend the wedding of
Meggan & Brian
Braddock

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RAAB

EAGLESHAM

HANNA

STATELY BRADDOCK
MANOR...

...HOME TO ENGLAND'S
PREMIER SUPER HERO,
CAPTAIN BRITAIN, AND
THE SITE OF THE GOOD
CAPTAIN'S RAUCOUS
BACHELOR PARTY.

THOUGH THE
CELEBRATION
ENDED NEARLY
THREE DAYS
AGO...

LAST ISSUE (1):
FESTIVE FRANK

...THE FUN IS JUST
BEGINNING FOR ONE
VERY HUNGOVER
PARTYGOER.

WHAT
HAPPENED?

LAST THING
I REMEMBER
WAS... WAS...

FOOMP!

OH... MY
ACHIN' HEAD.

EVERYTHING'S A
BLUR, A TOTAL
BLANK. I CAN'T
REMEMBER MY OWN
NAME! (I EVEN
HAVE A NAME...)

DOUGLOCK --
YOUR PRESENCE
HAS BEEN
REQUESTED. IT
IS TIME.

GREAT. AMNESIA...
AND NOW I'M
STARTING TO
HALLUCINATE...

THOUGH EXCESSIVE
LEVELS OF ALCOHOLIC
CONSUMPTION MAY
HAVE DISRUPTED
YOUR OPTICAL
RECEPTORS...

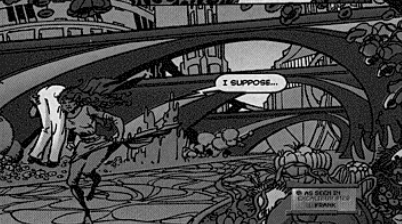
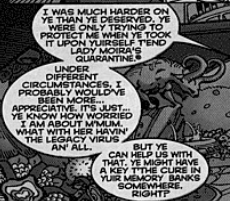
I ASSURE
YOU -- I AM NO
HALLUCINATION.

I
AM WIDGET.
YOU WILL
ACCOMPANY
ME.

NO WAY! I'M NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
WITH YOU UNTIL --
HEY!

LEMME GO!
WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING --







DID YE
NAE SAY THAT
BLACKGUARD
STRYPE'S ANDROID ---
ZERO --- UPLOAD
THAT DATA INTO YUIR
MEMORY?

AH... RIGHT.
I SAID THAT,
DIDN'T I?

DID I
MEAN
IT...?

DOUG...
IS SOMETHING
WRONG? I'M
STILL YUIR FRIEND.
YE KNOW, YE
CAN TELL ME
ANYTHING.

UH... WHAT MAKES
YOU TH-THINK
SOMETHING'S...
UH... WRONG?

JOY
TO YOU
BOTH!

YEAH YEAH
YEAH. BACK
ATCHA, LADY.



I'M PART
WOLF, REMEMBER?
I CAN SMELL IT ON YE.
BESIDES, YE'RE ACTIN'
REAL WEIRD, LIKE
YE'RE NAE YUIRSELF
TODAY.

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA.

I'M... UMMH...
I'M... A LITTLE
DISORIENTED.

THAT'S
NORMAL.
ROMA SAYS THE
TRANSDIMENSIONAL
LEAP FROM EARTH
TO OTHERWORLD IS
OFTEN A WEE BIT
DODGY.

IT'LL
PASS.

© THE UPLOAD IN QUESTION
TOOK PLACE IN CHICAGO
BY J. FORTMAN FRANK.



GOOD. NOW, WOULD
YOU MIND TELLING
ME WHY WE'RE ON
THIS "OTHERWORLD"
IN THE FIRST PLACE?

QUIT
MESSIN' ABOUT,
DOUGIE! YE KNOW
PRECISELY WHY
WE'RE HERE!

Proudly Presents
Stan Lee

THE BITTERSWEET SERIES
OF EXCALIBUR:

Ben
Raab
WRITER

Dale Eaglesham
PENCILER

Scott Harris
INKER

I DOP

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Knot

Kevin
Tinsley
COLORIST

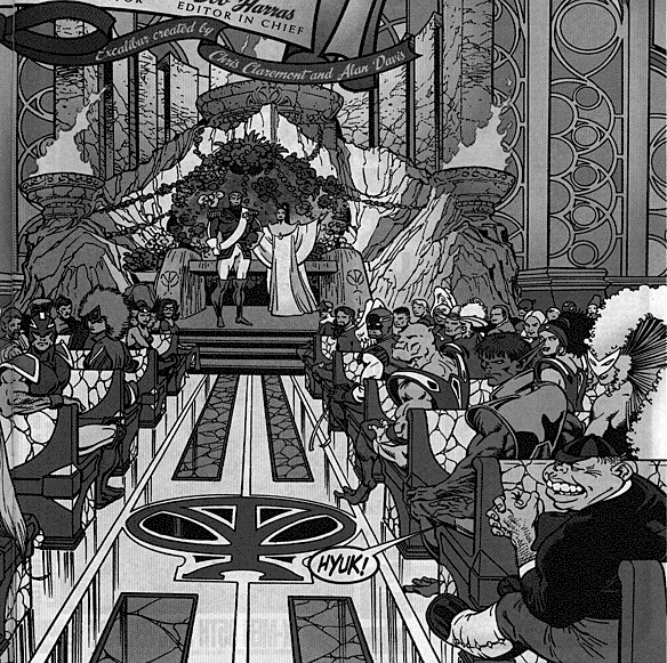
RS & Comcraft/em
LETTERING

Frank Pittarese
EDITOR

Bob Harris
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Excelsior created by

Chris Claremont and Alan Davis





"NOW -- IF THE BRIDAL PARTY WOULD PLEASE COME FORWARD..."

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, PIOTR? BRIAN AND MEGGAN ARE FINALLY TYING THE KNOT!

I'M SO HAPPY FOR THEM! I ALWAYS SAID THEY WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER.

LIKE WE WERE, ONCE UPON A TIME -- EH, KATYA...?

NOT FUNNY, RASPUTIN.

NOW THAT'S A HANDSOME COUPLE. WOULDNTY I SAY, ALSTAIR?

YOU OKAY, PIOTR? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST LOST YOUR BEST FRIEND.

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND KITTY'S TASTE IN MEN, RORY. WHAT SHE SEES IN BRUTES LIKE RASPUTIN AND BOORS LIKE PETER WYBORN IS BEYOND ME.

SHE USED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON ME, Y'KNOW.

I FEAR I HAVE ALREADY LOST TWO FRIENDS, KITTY.

CHEER UP, BIG GUY. YOU'VE STILL GOT ME!

AREN'T THEY SWEET, LOOKSEED? THINK THEY'LL EVER WISE UP AND FOLLOW BRIAN'S AND MEGGAN'S EXAMPLE SOME DAY?

COOO...

EACH PAIRING OF BRIDESMAID AND GROOMSMAN SYMBOLIZES A UNION, A CONNECTION, THE BINDING OF SOULS...

THE AVENUE DOWN WHICH THEY WALK REPRESENTS THE JOURNEY THAT IS LIFE. THE ALTAR IS THE END OF THAT JOURNEY.

BUT FOR BRIDE AND GROOM, THE ALTAR IS MERELY THE BEGINNING. IT IS HERE THAT THEY ARE FOREVER JOINED IN HOLY UNION...

"...A SACRED BOND AND MANY-WAY SUNDLER."



© BATES/IF PAVING A ROUNDABOUT CORNER ON HER OWN STATE OF MIND, BUT SHE NEEDS TO GET INTO THEM RIGHT NOW. THIS IS A WEDDING AFTER ALL. NOT ANOTHER MISTAKE LESSON. -- PAGE 11





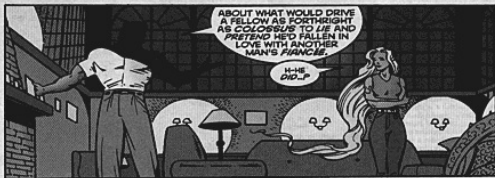
DUNDUNDA
DUNDADUUN DAA...

IT'S
HAPPENING! IT'S
REALLY, TRULY
HAPPENING!

MY
WEDDING
DAY.

IT'S LIKE A
DREAM CAME
TRUE.

THOUGH
IT NEARLY
BECAME A
COMPLETE
NIGHTMARE...



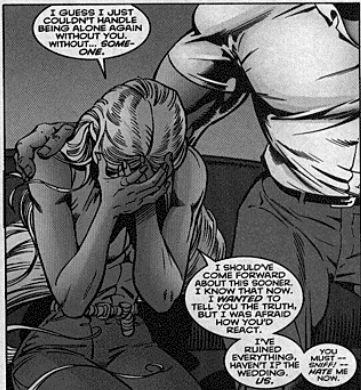


Y-YOU WERE GONE SO LONG... IT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY. JUST LIKE WHEN YOU WERE LOST IN THE TIMESTREAM.

I -- I TRIED TO BE STRONG. TRIED TO BURY MY EMOTIONS. ANYTHING TO KEEP MY FEELINGS LOCKED AWAY.

BUT IT WAS SO HARD. YOU AND I HAD PROMISED EACH OTHER WE'D BE TOGETHER SO MANY TIMES BEFORE. YET ONCE AGAIN WE WERE APART.

© BACK 28 LOCALS 871
© 1994



I GUESS I JUST COULDN'T HANDLE BEING ALONE AGAIN WITHOUT YOU. WITHOUT... SOMEONE.

I SHOULD'VE COME FORWARD ABOUT THIS SOONER. I KNOW THAT NOW. I WANTED TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, BUT I WAS AFRAID HOW YOU'D REACT.

I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING. HAVEN'T I? THE WEDDING. US.

YOU MUST -- ~~SHAME~~ -- HATE ME NOW.



NEVER. I'M SORRY I EVER LEFT YOUR SIDE. FORGIVE ME?



OH, BRIAN...

"I AM TRULY THE LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD..."





TO
ACHIEVE ONE-
NESS, YOU MUST
SOLEMNLY STATE
THE TRUE NATURE
OF YOUR HEARTS...
WILL YOU SWEAR
IT?

THIS WE
SWEAR.

THEN,
DO YOU --
BRIAN BRADDOCK,
CAPTAIN BRITAIN
OF EARTH 616 --
TAKE THIS WOMAN --
MEGGAN -- TO BE
YOUR LAWFUL
WEDDED
WIFE... P



"TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, TO
LOVE AND TO CHERISH, IN
SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH,
SO LONG AS YOUR SOUL
SHALL LIVE."



I
DO.



AND DO YOU --
MEGGAN -- TAKE
THIS MAN -- BRIAN
BRADDOCK -- TO BE
YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED
HUSBAND... P



"TO HAVE AND TO HOLD,
TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH,
IN SICKNESS AND IN
HEALTH, SO LONG AS
YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE."

OCH...
--SNIFFS--



WITH
ALL THAT
I AM... I
DO.

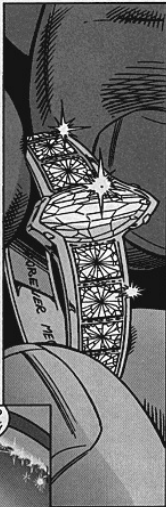
IF THERE IS ANYONE PRESENT AMONGST THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLAGE WHO DEEMS IT WORTH THAT THESE TWO BE JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY...

MAY YOU SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE.

GOOD.
THE
RING...P
LIP-ON.

BE
RIGHT
BACK!

BAM!





...ETERNALLY.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

SOON AFTER, IN THE
BANQUET HALL...

READY FOR
THE CEREMONIAL
"TOSSING OF THE
BOUQUET,"
KITTY?

TRADITION
HAS IT THAT THE
LUCKY GIRL WHO
CATCHES IT IS
NEXT TO MARRY!
ISN'T THAT
SWEET?

RIDICULOUS
IS MORE LIKE IT.

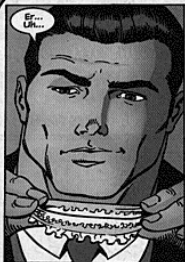
HAVE
YOU EVER SEEN
HOW CATTY
WOMEN GET WHEN
IT COMES TO THAT
STUPID BUNCH OF
FLOWERS? THEY'RE
VICIOUS!

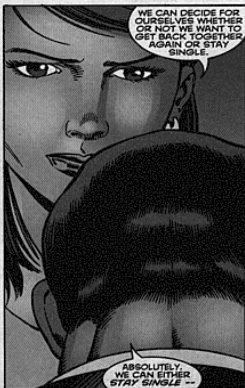












AS SUMPTUOUS CUISINE
IMPORTED FROM THE
FARTHEST REACHES OF
THE KNOWN GALAXIES FILLS
THE GUESTS' BELLIES...

... A SELECTION OF THE
FINEST WINES AND SPIRITS
OTHERWORLD'S CELLARS
AND VINEYARDS HAVE TO
OFFER LOOSENS THEIR
TONGUES.

AND FOR ONE
PARTICULAR GUEST...



... HIS
HEART.

ACHTUNG,
EVERYBODY...
SORRY TO DISTURB
YOUR MEAL, BUT I
BEG YOU TO INDULGE
MY TOAST TO THE
WONDERFUL BRIDE
AND GROOM.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO'S
LUCKIER HERE,
BRIAN AND
MEGGAN...

...OR
THOSE OF
US GATHERED
TODAY TO CELEBRATE
THEIR BLESSED --
ALBEIT
PROTRACTED --
UNION.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT
MY LIFE WOULD
HAVE BEEN LIKE
WITHOUT EITHER OF
THEM, AND TO BE
FRANK, I'D
RATHER
NOT.

STANDING
BESIDE THEM AS
EXCALIBUR, THEY
HAVE BECOME MORE
THAN JUST MY FRIENDS.
THEY ARE MY FAMILY,
AND I LOVE THEM
DEARLY.



SO
HERE'S TO
YOU BOTH, MAY
PEACE, LOVE AND
HAPPINESS KEEP
YOU
TOGETHER...

...FOREVER.

HEAR!
HEAR!







**AND AS THE BAND
PLAYS ON...**

NICE TO SEE YOU COULD TAKE TIME OFF FROM YOUR DUTIES AS LIMBO'S GUARDIAN AND SQUEEZE ME INTO YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, AMANDA.

THAT'S
NOT ALL I'D
LIKE TO TAKE
OFF FOR
YOU...

RAMRNDR!

WHAT?
I THOUGHT
YOU LIKED
BAD GIRLS,
KURT!

WHAT
HE LIKES,
HUSSY —

HEY!

Uh-Oh.

-- IS ME! HELLO,
MY LOVE. MIND
IF I GLICE
INP

Uh...
YOU MEAN
CUT IN,
GERGE.

YES,
WHATEVER YOU
TERRANS SAY.
TELL ME, KURT
WAGNER -- HAVE
YOU NOT MISSED
THOSE STIMULATING
LIP MESSAGES
WE ONCE
ENJOYED?

HAVE
YOU NOT
SSED ME?

I...
Um... Er... OF
COURSE I DID.

**OW! WAS
IST--P**

SLAP

THEN
WHY IS IT
YOU NEVER
CAME FOR
MEP

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF EMPRESS LILANDRA, I WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT TO ROT IN SOME ALSIBARIAN PRISON CAMP WITH THE REST OF THE INTERSTELLAR REFUSE!®

BUT YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN
BECAUSE YOU NEVER
BOTHERED TO INQUIRE
ABOUT MY FATE,
DID YOU?

SOME
"LOVER" YOU
ARE!

*LIP
MASSAGES...P*

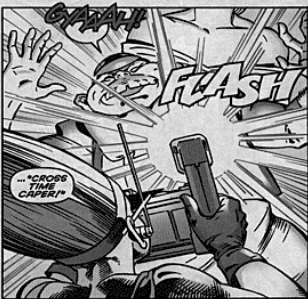
WOMEN.

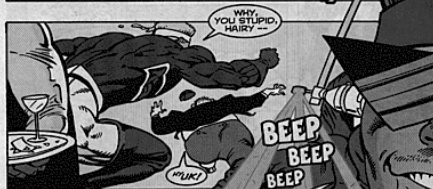
●CRONIN WAS CONVICTED OF CRIMES AGAINST THE SHEAR DISCOUNT IN OXLEYBUR 70 11 FRANK



© AS SEEN IN
EXCALIBUR #1







OWOWOWOWOW!

HEY!
WATCH IT,
YOU DUMB
APE!

OOOF!

CRASH!!

WAS
IST --P!

WHY,
YOU STUPID,
HAIRY...

CRASH!!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

HI-O
THERE, CAP! ME
INTERDIMENSIONAL
TRANSMITTER'S PICKIN' UP
MESSAGES FROM SOME
BLOKES WOT WANT TO
WISH YE BOTH MEEZ
TOV!

THESE
CHAPS SAY
THEY 'KNEW YOU
WHEN...

CONGRATULATIONS,
CAPTAIN! YOU'VE PROVEN
YOURSELF A FINE HERO --
NOW IT'S TIME TO PROVE
YOURSELF AN EQUALLY
UPSTANDING HUSBAND!
GOOD LUCK TO YOU AND
YOUR LOVELY WIFE!

ALL THE
BEST, I HOPE
YOU FIND YOUR
CAMELOT
TOGETHER.

RHHY...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
SO... SNIFF!...
PSYCHED FOR
YOU BOTH!

FBBBLT!

PS:
DON'T THINK
I'VE FORGOTTEN
THAT MONTH'S
RENT YOU OWE ME
FROM COLLEGE.
PIL



IT WAS FAR LESS THAN THE GRAND QUEST I EXPECTED. TURNS OUT MY MUM AND DAD WENT TO VISIT OUR COUSINS IN AUSTRALIA, BUT THE **CHARWOMAN** HAD ACCIDENTALLY TOSSED THE NOTE.

NOW, IT'S BACK TO LIVING HOME WITH THREE SQUARE MEALS AND "DO THE WASH, KYLIN" TIDY UP YOUR ROOM, KYLIN" BLAH BLAH BLAH.

LAST TIME I HEARD THE GLORIOUS CALL OF BATTLE WAS ON THE BLOODY TELLY.

BUT ENOUGH, IT'S UNBECOMING FOR A WARRIOR TO LAMENT HIS WOES. WHERE HAS DESTINY'S GUIDING HAND LED YOU THESE PAST MONTHS?

THE STATES, ACTUALLY. TELL ABOUT A MONTH AGO, I WAS WORKING AS CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR THE **BRAND CORPORATION** IN THAT ABOMINABLE HELLHOLE CALLED "NEW JOISEY".

NOT AS WELL AS IT COULD, I SUPPOSE. THIS DAY HAS STIRRED LONG DORMANT THOUGHTS OF MY LATE, BELOVED **SAT'NEEN**.

REMEMBER MY SEARCH FOR MY MISSING PARENTS?

© SAT'NEEN USED BY
LUCAS & LEE
FATAL FRANK

THAT IS, UNTIL THE BIGWIGS AT **BRAND** REALIZED THEY NO LONGER REQUIRED MY UNIQUE SERVICES. AS A TOKEN OF THEIR UNAPPRECIATION, THEY GAVE ME A LEAD PARACHUTE SEVERANCE PACKAGE...

SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN WALLCRAWLING IN SELF-PITY AND CATCHING UP ON MY SOAPS AMONG THE RANKS OF THE **UNEMPLOYED**.



"...NOT SATURNYNE!"

SO,
THIS IS
IT.

SO IT
APPEARS.

I NEVER
THOUGHT IT WOULD
END LIKE THIS, YOU
KNOW. DESPITE THE
ROUNDABOUT NATURE
OF OUR RELATION-
SHIP ALL THESE
YEARS --

-- I
ALWAYS
PRESUMED I'D
BE THE ONE IN THE
WEDDING GOWN,
NEXT TO YOU ON
THE ALTAR.

THINGS
DON'T ALWAYS
PAN OUT THE
WAY WE
PLAN.

TRUE,
BUT THE
OMNIVERSE
IS A FUNNY
PLACE.

ANYTHING
CAN
HAPPEN.

I THINK NOT,
SATURNYNE.

VERY WELL,
THEN...
"CAPTAIN".

IT'S
YOUR
LOSS.

ENJOY YOUR
HUSBAND, NOW.
I CERTAINLY
NEVER DID!

P

DON'T TELL ME
SHE'S STILL
LYING FOR YOUR
AFFECTION?

SOME
PEOPLE
JUST NEVER
LEARN.



HEY! SAVE
THAT FOR THE
HONEYMOON,
YOU TWO!

WHY,
BROTHER -- I
NEVER KNEW YOU
HAD IT IN YOU! SINCE
WHEN ARE YOU SO
PASSIONATE?

SORRY TO INTRUDE UPON YOUR
LITTLE FAMILY REUNION, KIDS, BUT
WE THREE HAVE SOMETHING
OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT
TO MAKE.

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, KURT?
SOMETHING
WRONG?

NOT SO
WRONG AS IN NEED OF
RECONCILIATION.

SINCE I'M
THE HAPPIEST
MAN ALIVE, *ARRR*,
BETSY, I'M SO GLAD
YOU COULD MAKE
IT. I'VE MISSED
YOU, SIS.

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE MISSED IT
FOR THE WORLD,
BRIAN, TELEPATHIC
MELTDOWN
OR NO.



IT'S A
SHAME THE
WHOLE FAMILY
COULDN'T BE
HERE TO ENJOY IT.

● YOU WANTED A REFERENCE
TO "BETH ANN" (BETH ANN
WAS BETH ANN) WITH
POSSIBLY NOT GETTING
HAPPY NO? (I FEARED)

● BRIAN'S AND BETSY'S OLDER BROTHER, SHANE
BRANDOCK, HAS BEEN CAPTURED IN A WILD
ISLAND LAB SINCE CREATING ARTISTS.

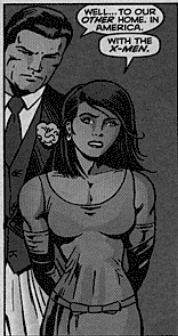


I SINCERELY
HATE TO BE THE
BEARER OF BAD TIDINGS
ON YOUR WEDDING DAY, BUT
BY THE TIME YOU RETURN
FROM YOUR HONEYMOON,
KITTY, PHOTIE AND I
WILL ALREADY BE
GONE.

"GONE"
WHERE
TO..?



HOME.







COME, MEIN
FREUNDEN! MUCH
REVELRY YET
AWAITS!

THE
NIGHT IS
YOUNG AND
THERE'S STILL
PLENTY OF
WINE.



RIGHT BEHIND YA,
KURT! LET'S SHOW
THOSE OTHERWORLDERS
HOW TO REALLY
"RAISE THE
ROOF!"

AND SO
IT ALL COMES
FULL CIRCLE,
DOESN'T IT...
FATHER?

Hmm... P



FORGIVE ME,
GUARDIAN -- BUT
I DO BELIEVE
YOU ARE
MISTAKEN.



IF ONLY I WERE SO BLIND
AS TO NOT SENSE YOUR
PRESENCE HERE ON
OTHERWORLD.

YOU, FATHER, ARE
LIKE A FORCE OF
NATURE. ONE
COULD MORE
EASILY IGNORE
THE WHIPPING
WIND...

...MERLYN.



YOU ALWAYS WERE SUCH A *PERCEPTIVE* CHILD, ROMA. I'M AMAZED I COULD DECEIVE YOU THIS LONG.

TELL ME, DAUGHTER --- WHY HAVE YOU PICKED THIS MOMENT FOR EXCALIBUR'S DISSOLUTION? THE THREAT OF EVIL YET LINGERS...

I HAVE DONE NOTHING. I ASSUMED IT WAS YOUR DOING.

NOT THIS TIME, I MUST CONFESS.



BUT IF NEITHER OF US HAD A HAND IN SHAPING THIS PORTENTOUS EVENT, THEN WHO DID?

PECULIAR AS IT MAY BE, I BELIEVE *THEY* DID, THEMSELVES.

WE POSSESS THE POWER TO STEER THESE GALLANT HEROES IN A *DIRECTION*, ROMA DEAR, BUT ONLY *THEY* CAN DETERMINE THE *PROPER* COURSE TO FOLLOW.

IN ORDER TO SERVE A *HIGHER** PURPOSE TO THE FULLEST OF THEIR ABILITIES, THEY MUST FIRST FULFILL THEIR OWN. I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHY HUMANS PRIZE THAT DOGGY *WAGGINGLE** NOTION SO HIGHLY...

BUT THIS IS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY! SHOULD WE NOT INTERVENE?

NAY. THOUGH THE SWORD WE TWO SO CRAFTILY FORGED HATH BEEN *SHEATHED* FOR NOW, IT MAY YET BE DRAWN ANEW WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...

... SOMEDAY.



THE END
FOR NOW...